

**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**PARK MAINTENANCE STANDARDS:**  
***THE MANUAL***

*Working Paper*

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## OVERVIEW

### ***Background***

- The initiative— Prop C passed in November 2003 by 71% of the electorate added Appendix F to the City Charter. Appendix F1 Section 100(d)(4) mandates that the Controller/City Services Auditor (CSA) review standards for street and park maintenance in consultation with responsible City departments and perform an annual Clean Streets/Clean Parks audit to track whether these standards are met.

### ***What is the purpose of the Manual?***

- With the assistance of the Controller's Office, the San Francisco Department of Recreation and Parks (Rec & Park) developed outcome-based park maintenance standards. Based on experience and knowledge of San Francisco Rec & Park staff and park inspection programs of other jurisdictions, the San Francisco Park Maintenance Standards Manual describe the conditions for which park features will be evaluated against. The manual contains quality standards, which define the desired conditions of a selected group of tangible park features.

### ***What are the objectives of having standards?***

- Communicate condition of the park system to Rec & Park staff, elected officials and the public.
- Improve park conditions.
- Help allocate resources.

### ***What are the benefits of having "standards"?***

- Improve consistency and minimize subjectivity when assessing park conditions.
- Report on individual, regional, and citywide park conditions as well as on specific park features.
- Identify maintenance problems so they are properly handled.
- Identify routine maintenance needs.
- Develop new department-wide performance measures and objectives.
- Identify need for major renovations or capital improvements

### ***What problems do the standards address?***

- Lack of reliable, measurable, and objective information on park conditions.

### ***What are the limits or caveats of the Manual?***

- The questions listed in the evaluation survey gauge compliance with standards for park quality. These questions are derived from the San Francisco Parks Maintenance Standards Manual. The manual contains quality standards, which define the desired conditions of tangible park features. The manual also provides pictorial examples of what the quality standards should reflect. Although the questions require a certain

degree of interpretation, they are specific enough for any evaluator to make a reasonably informed decision. Thus, there may be some instances where the evaluator will have to determine whether a site meets a particular standard despite some noted deficiencies. The manual serves as a guide in informing the evaluator whether a particular feature meets the quality standards.

- The park maintenance standards, which are aimed to assess the condition of existing facilities, focus on 14 “park features” that account for a large part of routine park’s maintenance functions.
- The standards do not define what should be provided or whether a park meets San Francisco recreational needs.

***Who is the intended audience users of the Manual?***

- Staff of the Recreation and Parks Department
- Controller’s Office
- Elected Officials
- General Public and Park Users

***Which documents complement the Manual?***

- Park Evaluation Tool
- Internal and external reports on park conditions.
- Website information on compliance with maintenance standards and schedules.

**Table 1. Park features covered in Park Maintenance Standards**

<b>Landscaping</b>	<b>Recreational Facilities*</b>	<b>Support Facilities</b>
1. Lawns	5. Turf Athletic Fields (E.g., Soccer field)	9. Restrooms
2. Ground Covers & Shrubs	6. Outdoor Athletic Courts (E.g., Tennis & Basketball courts)	10. Parking Areas and Roads
3. Trees	7. Children’s Play Areas	11. Waste Management
4. Paths, Sidewalks, Plazas, and Trails	8. Dog Play Areas	12. Benches, Tables, and Grills
		13. Buildings & Structures

(\*Excludes recreational programs.)

**Table 2 – Elements of park features included in the standards**

Category	Park feature	Elements examined under each park feature	
A. Landscaping			
1.	Lawns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Color</li><li>Density and spots</li><li>Drainage/ flooded area</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Edged</li><li>Height/mowed</li><li>Holes</li></ul>
2.	Ground covers & Shrubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Plant health</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pruned</li><li>Weediness</li></ul>
3.	Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Limbs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Plant health</li></ul>
4.	Paths, Sidewalks, Plazas, and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Drainage/flooded area</li><li>Graffiti</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Surface quality</li><li>Weediness</li></ul>
5.	Green Open Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li></ul>	
B. Recreational Facilities			
6.	Turf Athletic Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Color</li><li>Drainage/flooded area</li><li>Fencing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Functionality of structures</li><li>Height/ mowed</li><li>Holes</li></ul>
7.	Outdoor Athletic Courts (e.g., tennis and basketball courts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Drainage/ flooded area</li><li>Fencing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Functionality of structures</li><li>Painting/stripping</li><li>Surface quality</li></ul>
8.	Children’s’ Play Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Graffiti</li><li>Functionality and structural integrity of equipment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Painting</li><li>Surface quality</li></ul>
9.	Dog Play Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bag dispenser</li><li>Signage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Surface quality</li><li>Waste Receptacles</li></ul>
C. Support Facilities			
10.	Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Graffiti</li><li>Functionality of structures</li><li>Lighting</li><li>Odor</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Painting</li><li>Signage</li><li>Supply inventory</li><li>Waste receptacles</li></ul>
11.	Parking Areas and Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ADA parking spaces</li><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Curbs</li><li>Drainage/ flooded areas</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Graffiti</li><li>Painting/ stripping</li><li>Signage</li><li>Surface Quality</li></ul>
12.	Waste Management (Focus is on waste receptacles.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness of waste receptacles</li><li>Fullness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Painting</li><li>Structural integrity</li></ul>
13.	Benches, Tables, and Grills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Graffiti</li><li>Painting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Structures integrity and functionality</li></ul>
14.	Buildings & Structures (Focus is on exterior of buildings.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cleanliness</li><li>Drinking fountains</li><li>Fencing</li><li>Gates / locks</li><li>Graffiti</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lighting</li><li>Painting</li><li>Retaining Walls</li><li>Signage</li><li>Stairways</li></ul>

## A. LANDSCAPING

### 1. LAWNS

*What is inspected:* Condition of surface.

Notes: Weediness is excluded from park inspection process, because by City ordinance, use of pesticides is prohibited.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
1.1	Cleanliness	<p>1.1.a Turf is free of litter. (Examples of litter include tissue paper, food wrappings, newspapers, and larger items like abandoned appliances.)</p> <p>1.1.b Turf is free of organic debris that impedes mowing. (Examples of debris include limbs, rocks, and any other item that impedes mowing.)</p> <p>Notes: At a small park/civic plaza, the standard is met if fewer than 10 pieces of litter or debris, lightly scattered, are visible in a 25' by 25' area or along a 100' line.</p> <p>At a neighborhood or regional park, the standard is met if fewer than 15 pieces of litter are visible in a 100' by 100' area or along a 200' line.</p>	
1.2	Color	<p>80-75% of turf area is fairly green.</p> <p>Note: Some grasses, like Kikuya grass, are of light green/yellow color during the winter period.</p>	
1.3	Density and spots	80% of turf area is free of bare spots.	
1.4	Drainage/ Flooded area	80% of turf area is free of standing water.	
1.5	Edged	Edges are clearly defined and have less than four (4) inches of growth over adjoining landscape.	
1.6	Height/ mowed	Lawns are mowed and kept at a uniform height of less than ankle height.	
1.7	Holes	<p>Noticeable from a close distance, lawns are free of visible holes greater than one foot in diameter and depth.</p> <p>Note: Holes greater than one foot (in diameter and depth) that are observed during the inspection process should be reported so they can be filled in.</p>	

## 2. GROUND COVERS & SHRUBS

*What is inspected:* Ornamental areas, including perennial and annual beds, shrubs, and ground covers.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
2.1	Cleanliness	<p>Ground covers and shrubs are free of litter and debris.</p> <p>Notes: The standard is met if fewer than 15 pieces of litter or debris, lightly scattered, are visible in a 25' by 25' planted area or along a 100' line.</p> <p>Examples of litter include tissue paper, food wrappings, newspapers, and larger items like abandoned appliances.</p> <p>Examples of debris include limbs, rocks, and any other item that impedes mowing.</p>	
2.2	Plant health	90% or more of the horticultural area shows no signs of <u>death</u> or <u>damage</u> (e.g., broken or uprooted shrubs and flowers).	
2.3	Pruned	<p>100% of ground covers and shrubs has appropriate size and shape <u>for</u> their location.</p> <p>Note: The size and shape should be common to species and should <u>not</u> impede pathway nor block sight lines and landmarks.</p>	
2.4	Weediness	90% of horticultural area is free of weeds.	

### 3. TREES

*What is inspected:* Trees surrounding paved paths, play areas, sitting areas, and athletic fields. Trees in open spaces are excluded.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
3.1	Limbs	3.1.a For neighborhood parks, no broken or hanging limbs greater than four (4) inches are visible. 3.1.b For regional parks, less than five (5) broken or hanging limbs are visible.	
3.2	Plant health	All trees are alive and 90% of trees are free of <u>damage</u> (e.g., dead limbs, brown foliage, damaged bark).  Note: With the exception of open spaces, including natural areas, the standard is not met if any tree is dead.	



#### 4. PATHS, SIDEWALKS, PLAZAS, AND TRAILS

*What is inspected:* Paved surfaces (or hardscapes) such as paths, sidewalks and plazas as well as non-paved surfaces such as trails.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
4.1	Cleanliness	<p>Paths, sidewalks, plazas, and trails are free of litter, debris, and broken glass.</p> <p>Notes: The standard is met only if all of the following three conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer than 10 pieces of litter are lightly scattered;</li> <li>• No debris obstructs passage, and</li> <li>• Less than one (1) broken glass bottle is visible from a 10 feet distance.</li> </ul>	
4.2	Drainage/ Flooded area	<p>At least 95% of observed hardscape area is free of standing water during non-rainy season, after two days after rain, or after two hours of irrigation.</p> <p>Notes: Standard applies all year round. Non-rainy season is from April through October.</p>	
4.3	Graffiti	<p>95% of hardscape area is free of graffiti.</p> <p>Note: Recreation and Parks Department's policy is no tolerance to graffiti. If graffiti is observed, it has to be reported to the department to be cleaned within 48 hours.</p>	
4.4	Surface quality	<p>Paved surface is free of irregularities in grade greater than half an inch (0.5'') and of cracks and holes greater than two (2'') inches.</p>	
4.5	Weediness	<p>At least 95% of paved surfaces are free of weeds.</p> <p>Note: This standard does <u>not</u> refer to edging or grass growth over adjoining hardscape.</p> <p>Edging is addressed under lawns (standard 1.5).</p>	

## 5. OPEN SPACE

*What is inspected:* Any open space, which is an undeveloped park area with vegetation not cultivated by the department. Open space is neither an actively used park land nor a designated natural area, such as right of way patches or unimproved lots.

Note: This park feature excludes natural resource areas, which are areas deemed to contain remnants of San Francisco's historic landscape including a significant population of rare, endangered or native California flora and fauna.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description	Meet standard? Y/N
5.1	Cleanliness	<p>From a noticeable distance (i.e., from nearest path), open space is free of litter and debris.</p> <p>Note: In open space, the standard is met if fewer than 15 pieces of litter are visible in a 50' by 50' area or along a 200' line.</p>	

## B. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### 6. TURF ATHLETIC FIELDS

*What is inspected:* Turf areas used for sports, such as baseball diamonds and soccer fields. Artificial turf fields are inspected in standards for outdoor athletic courts.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
6.1	Cleanliness	<p>Turf athletic fields are free of litter and debris. (Examples of debris include limbs, rocks, and any other item that impedes playing.)</p> <p>Notes: The standard is met if fewer than 15 pieces of litter or debris, lightly scattered, are visible in a 100' by 100' area.</p> <p>This standard also applies in artificial turf athletic fields.</p>	
6.2	Color	Turf athletic fields are uniformly green.	
6.3	Drainage/ flooded area	<p>At least 90% of observed turf athletic field is free of standing water during non-rainy season, after two days after rain, or after two hours of irrigation.</p> <p>Notes: Standard applies all year round. Non-rainy season is from April through October.</p>	
6.4	Fencing	Fencing is functional and free of protrusions and catch points.	
6.5	Functionality of structures	<p>90% of available sport-related and support structures are operational for playing or observing sports.</p> <p>Notes: Examples of sport-related and support structures include backstops, goal posts, nets, dugouts, team benches, spectator stands, and lighting system.</p> <p>This standard focuses on functionality, not attractiveness of structures.</p>	
6.6	Height/ mowed	<p>Turf is mowed and kept at a uniform height of less than ankle height.</p> <p>Note: This standard does not apply in artificial turf athletic fields.</p>	
6.7	Holes	<p>From a noticeable distance, turf field is <u>free</u> of holes.</p> <p>Note: Holes greater than one foot (in diameter and depth) that are observed during the inspection process should be reported so they can be filled in.</p>	

## 7. OUTDOOR ATHLETIC COURTS (E.G., TENNIS/ BASKETBALL COURTS)

*What is inspected:* Paved surfaces designed for playing sports including tennis, basketball, volleyball, skateboarding, and artificial turf fields.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
7.1	Cleanliness	<p>Court surface is free of litter and debris. (Examples of debris include limbs, rocks, and any other item that impedes playing.)</p> <p>Notes: At all parks, the standard is met if less than five (5) pieces of litter or debris, lightly scattered, are visible across in a 25' by 25' area or along a 100' line.</p>	
7.2	Drainage/ Flooded area	<p>At least 95% of observed court surface is free of standing water non-rainy season, after two days after rain, or after two hours of irrigation.</p> <p>Notes: Standard applies all year round. Non-rainy season is from April through October.</p>	
7.3	Fencing	Fencing is functional and free of protrusions and catch points.	
7.4	Functionality of structures	<p>90% of available sport-related and support structures are operational for playing or observing sports.</p> <p>Notes: Examples of sport-related and support structures include backstops, goal posts, nets, dugouts, team benches, spectator stands, and lighting system.</p> <p>This standard focuses on functionality, not attractiveness of structures.</p>	
7.5	Painting/ striping	Play lines are clearly visible and worn painted surfaces do not exceed 20% of total court surface.	
7.6	Surface quality	<u>Noticeable from a distance</u> , play court surface is smooth, and free of irregularities in grade greater than half an inch (0.5'') and cracks and holes greater than one inch (1'').	

## 8. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

*What is inspected:* Children's play areas and their equipment. Play equipment includes among other swings, slides, ladders, bars, and poles.

Notes:

If any substandard conditions are observed, they should be reported to the department for abatement.

This children's play area evaluation is not a substitute for the safety inspection conducted by a certified playground inspector.

Playground facilities can contain children's play areas.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
8.1	Cleanliness	<p>Play area is free of litter and debris. If present, sand box is free of gravel or woodchips.</p> <p>(Examples of litter include tissue paper, food wrappings, newspapers, larger items like abandoned appliances, and cigarette butts.)</p> <p>Notes: At all parks, the standard is met if: fewer than 15 pieces of litter or debris, lightly scattered, and no broken glass greater than a quarter inch (1/4") are visible in a 25' by 25' area or along a 100' line.</p> <p>Smoking is prohibited in children's play areas.</p> <p>Children's play area should not have weeds.</p>	
8.2	Graffiti	<p>95% of play area is free of graffiti.</p> <p>Note: If graffiti is observed, it has to be reported to the department to be cleaned within 48 hours.</p>	
8.3	Functionality of equipment	At least 80% of play equipment is present and functional.	
8.4	Painting	Painted structures are free of peeling or chipped paint.	
8.5	Surface quality	<p>If applicable, sand is loose (not compacted) and the level is <u>at least 12"</u>.</p> <p>Less than 5% of resilient surface around playground equipment is missing or torn.</p>	

## 9. DOG PLAY AREAS

*What is inspected:* Any designated off-leash areas.

Note: By city ordinance, users of dog play area are responsible for picking up any litter or dog waste and supplying bags for dog waste bag dispensers in designated off-leash areas.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
9.1	Bag dispenser	Bag dispensers are available, free of graffiti, and fully operational.	
9.2	Signage	Park signs for designated off-leash areas are legible, free of graffiti, and properly installed in noticeable locations.	
9.3	Surface Quality	Surface is smooth and free of holes greater than one foot in diameter.	
9.4	Waste Receptacle	Waste receptacles are available and not overflowing.	

## C. SUPPORT FACILITIES

### 10. RESTROOMS

*What is inspected:* Entryway and interior of all restrooms, including standalone or part of buildings restrooms, with entrances from inside or outside of a building.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Male Restroom: Meet standard? Y/N	Female Restroom: Meet standard? Y/N
10.1	Cleanliness	<p>Entryway and interior of restrooms are free of litter, debris, and human waste.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>The standard is met if fewer than 3 pieces of litter are visible on the floor, wall or ceiling of restroom.</p> <p>The standard is <u>not</u> met if human waste is present in the interior or entryway of restrooms within a 25' perimeter.</p>		
10.2	Graffiti	<p>Restrooms are free of graffiti.</p> <p>Note: If graffiti is observed, it has to be reported to the department to be cleaned within 48 hours.</p>		
10.3	Functionality of structures	All toilets, urinals, partitions, water faucets and drains of sinks are operational.		
10.4	Lighting	90% of lights are operational.		
10.5	Odor	Restroom is free of obnoxious odor.		
10.6	Painting	Painting has uniform coat and is not peeling.		
10.7	Signage	Restroom signs are legible, free of graffiti, <u>and</u> properly installed near entrances.		
10.8	Supply inventory	Restrooms are stocked with toilet paper, paper towel, and soap.		
10.9	Waste receptacles	Waste receptacles are clean and not overflowing.		

## 11. PARKING AREAS AND ROADS

*What is inspected:* Parking areas and roads maintained by the Recreation and Parks Department, such as those in Richmond Recreational Center, McLaren Lodge, and Golden Gate Park.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
11.1	ADA parking spaces	ADA parking spaces are available.	
11.2	Cleanliness	Parking area and roads are free of litter and debris. Paved surfaces are adequately swept.	
11.3	Curbs	When present, 90% of asphalt curbs are intact.  Notes: This standard mostly applies to asphalt curbs in regional parks, but if it is present in other parks, this element should be assessed. DPW curbs are excluded.	
11.4	Drainage/ flooded areas	Parking areas and roads are free of standing water during non-rainy season, two days after rain, or two hours after irrigation.  Notes: Standard applies all year round. Non-rainy season is from April through October.	
11.5	Graffiti	Parking area and roads are free of graffiti.  Note: If graffiti is observed, it has to be reported to the department for abatement within 48 hours.	
11.6	Painting/ stripping	From a noticeable distance, parking and roads lines are visible.	
11.7	Signage	Signs are legible, free of graffiti, <u>and</u> properly installed in noticeable locations.  Note: Examples of signs include directional signs.	
11.8	Surface quality	Parking area and roads are free of potholes greater than six (6) inches (in diameter and depth). Parking areas and roads are <u>evenly surfaced</u> .	



## 12. WASTE MANAGEMENT

*What is inspected:* Waste receptacles and their surrounding areas, not overall cleanliness of other park features, such as benches and tables.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
12.1	Cleanliness of waste receptacles	12.1.a 90% of available waste receptacles are clean and free of graffiti.  12.1.b 90% of available waste receptacles has immediate area surrounding them free of litter and debris.	
12.2	Fullness	Waste receptacles are not overflowing.	
12.3	Painting	Painting has uniform coat and is not peeling.	
12.4	Structural integrity	Waste receptacles are free of large cracks or damage that affect their use.	

### 13. BENCHES, TABLES, & GRILLS

*What is inspected:* Surface and surrounding area of benches, tables, and grills.

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
13.1	Cleanliness	13.1.a 90% of available benches, tables, and grills are free of litter, dirt, and rust.  13.1.b 90% of area surrounding benches, tables, and grills are free of litter, weeds, debris, and broken glass.	
13.2	Graffiti	Benches, tables, and grills are free of painted graffiti.  Note: If graffiti is observed, it has to be reported to the department to be cleaned within 48 hours.	
13.3	Painting	At least 80% of surface of benches and tables is free of peeling or chipped paint, if applicable.	
13.4	Structures integrity and functionality	90% of benches and tables are structurally sound, properly anchored, <u>and</u> free of sharp edges and protrusions. Grills are operational.	

## 14. BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

*What is inspected:* Exterior of buildings and structures that were not covered in particular “park features” above.

Notes: Park Sector Supervisors are responsible for checking interior and exterior of facilities, but reporting of interior conditions is excluded from this inspection process

No.	Measured element	Standard Description with unit of measure (if applicable)	Meet standard? Y/N
14.1	Cleanliness	14.1.a <u>Exterior</u> of buildings are free of litter and debris. 14.1.b Exterior stairways are free of litter and debris.	
14.2	Drinking fountains	Drinking fountains are accessible, operational, and free of standing water and debris.	
14.3	Fencing	95% of fencing is functional and free of protrusions and catch points.	
14.4	Gates / locks	Gates, latches, and locks are operational.	
14.5	Graffiti	14.5.a <u>Exterior</u> of buildings and retaining walls are free of vandalism and graffiti.  14.5.b Retaining walls are free of vandalism and graffiti.  Note: If graffiti is observed, it has to be reported to the department for abatement within 48 hours.	
14.6	Lighting	95% of security and facility lights are operational, where applicable.  Note: This feature should be checked at night.	
14.7	Painting	90% of painting of <u>exterior</u> of buildings is of uniform color and not peeling.	
14.8	Signage	95% of park signs are legible, free of graffiti, and properly installed in noticeable locations.  Note: Language and purpose of signage are not assessed. (Only for internal review)	
14.9	Stairways	Stairways are structurally sound.  Note: Structurally sound implies, among other things, that raisers and treads are consistent from top to bottom and that the stairways have handrails.	
14.10	Retaining walls	Retaining walls are structurally sound.  Note: Structurally sound implies, among other things, that the walls are not leaning and that are free of large cracks.	

## APPENDIX 1. OTHER ELEMENTS TO EXAMINE BUT ARE EXCLUDED FROM STANDARDS

The following park features and elements are not currently considered for standards compliance. These park features and elements are for internal use only, their standard language is under development, or their use is for further discussion.

Measured element	Standard Description	Standard applies to the following park features:
Irrigation system	Irrigation system is fully operational with complete uniform coverage. System is free of leaks. Heads are properly adjusted with rotations and arcs set to reduce water run off. Systems are set to run at specific times to minimize water evaporation and waste.	#1 (lawns), #2 (ground covers and shrubs), and #6 (turf athletic fields).
Seasonality	Plant beds are appropriate for the season.	#2 (ground covers and shrubs)
Diversity of plants	[Standard is needed. It includes diversity in type and age of species.]	#2 (ground covers and shrubs) and #3 (trees)
Pruned	Trees are pruned to appropriate size and shape. (How it will be measured? If trees are pruned once or twice a year, how a regular observer can identify whether a tree has been pruned?)	
Vines	Canopy of trees and ornamental areas, including perennial and annual beds as well as shrubs are free of vines.	
Semblance of the form common to the species	Semblance of trees is common to the species form.	#3 (trees)
Aesthetic principles of landscape design / Aesthetic quality of parks	The standards does not address the aesthetic principles of landscape design, style, the ornamental qualities of horticulture such as texture, color, placement, plant selection, or whether the landscape meets the city's sustainability recommendations.  The aesthetic quality of San Francisco's parks, while meriting recognition, evaluation and discussion is not included in these standards.	

### *Other suggested park feature:* **Open Space-Natural Areas**

*What is inspected:* Natural Resource Areas, which are areas deemed to contain remnants of San Francisco's historic landscape including a significant population of rare, endangered or native California flora and fauna.

**Note:** Green open spaces, which are planted areas not actively maintained and that are not designated natural areas, are excluded from this park feature.

Measured element	Standard Description	Standard applies to the following park features:
Cleanliness	From a noticeable distance, area is free of litter and debris.  Note: In open space, the standard is met if fewer than 15 pieces of litter are visible in a 50' by 50' area or along a 200' line.	Natural Areas
Diversity of plants and trees	[Standard is needed. Include diversity in type and age of species.]	Natural Areas
Functionality of trails		
Signage		